TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI) IN UTAH, 2004

FACTS ABOUT TBI IN UTAH*

- Males sustain nearly twice as many TBIs as females.
- Utahns under age 60 sustain the majority of TBIs in motor vehicle crashes.
- Utahns over age 60 sustain most TBIs in falls.
- Wearing helmets could prevent the majority of bicycle-, motorcycle- and ATV-related traumatic brain injuries.

WHO

- **2,384** Utahns (1,587 males, 796 females, 1 unknown gender) suffered TBIs in 2004.
- Of those victims, **491** (20.6%) died.
- Utahns ages **85 and older** suffered the highest rates of TBI (639.3 per 100,000 population).
- 41 TBI victims were infants under age 1.

HOW

CAUSE	Number*	Percent
Falls	470	36.3
Motor Vehicle	318	24.6
Sports	85	6.5
Motorcycle	75	5.8
Pedestrian	71	5.5
Assault (including firearm)	52	4.0
ATV/Snowmobile	49	3.8
Bicycle	40	3.1
Falling Object	26	2.0
Snow sports	25	1.9
Firearm (unintentional)	12	0.9
Self-inflicted	32	2.5
Other/Unknown	40	3.1
TOTAL	1,295	100%
*N=1,295. Numbers in table represent sampled cases only.		

WHERE

- TBIs are 47.0% more likely to occur in rural Utah (119.4 per 100,000) than in urban areas (81.2 per 100,000 population). Urban Utah includes Salt Lake, Utah, Davis and Weber Counties.
- The Local Health Districts with the highest TBI rates were Tooele, Central and Summit (156.0, 154.5 and 139.1 per 100,000, respectively).
- The Davis, Utah and Weber-Morgan districts had the lowest TBI rates (49.6, 69.2 and 88.4, respectively).

What is TBI?

TBI is defined as a head injury with one or more of the following conditions:

- 1. Observed or self-reported decreased level of consciousness;
- 2. Amnesia;
- 3. Skull fracture;
- 4. Neurological or neuropsychological abnormality; or
- 5. Intracranial lesion.

TBI PREVENTION

Motor Vehicles

- 1. Always wear a seat belt.
- 2. Wear a helmet when riding ATVs, snowmobiles and motorcycles.
- 3. Put all children in the correct car seat for their age, height and weight. For help, visit www.health.utah.gov/vipp.
- 4. Children should ride in the back seat until age 12.
- 5. Don't drive drunk, drugged or drowsy.

Falls Among the Elderly

- 1. Keep stairs well lit and free of clutter.
- 2. Put non-slip surfacing in tubs and showers and on bathroom floors.
- 3. Have your vision checked every year.
- 4. Exercise regularly.

Suicide

- 1. Keep guns unloaded and locked up, with ammunition stored separately.
- 2. Watch loved ones for signs of depression and get help if needed.

Bicycle and Pedestrian

- 1. Always wear a helmet.
- 2. Cross streets only at crosswalks.

Snow Sports

1. Wear a helmet while skiing, sledding, and snowboarding.



^{*}All data for this fact sheet are from the Utah Department of Health Violence and Injury Prevention Program TBI database.











